NEUTRALS—4.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.
" Kurandippallil R. Raman Pillai.
" C. P. Tarakan, and
" C. Tuppan Namputiripad.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-47 P. M. and met again a 2-32 P. M.

Cultivation of Tobacco in the State.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, beg to move the following resolution:

" This Council recommends to the Government that the embargo on the cultivatio of tobacco in the State be removed and that its cultivation be encouraged."

It may be thought that as there are various other cultivations i Travancore it is not very material that the cultivation of tobacco shoul be encouraged.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) May I know from the member whether there are any lands in Travar core suitable for the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Ye

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) Where please?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wi deal with that afterwards. I know that many parts of Travancore a suitable for the cultivation of tobacco.

The people of Travancore are now losing about 50 lakhs of Rupe every year because of the prohibition of the cultivation of tobacco in th State. The present economic condition is such that this is a very harm ful drain on the country. Of this amount, the Government gets onl about 20 lakhs of Rupees. The merchants' profits and the money pai to the producers and the middlemen outside will at least amount to 2 or 30 lakhs. So it comes to about 50 lakhs on the whole. The Goverı ment can permit and encourage the cultivation of tobacco in the Sta without foregoing the revenue of the Government from this sourc They need permit this cultivation of tobacco only under a license, and proper revenue to Government can be realised as an Excise duty on th commercial product by methods similar to those employed in the case salt or cardamoms.

Even if the proposed change results in a decrease of revenue th Government can very well afford to bear it. We have a balance about Rs. 40 lakhs now and the income from tobacco is only Rs. 20 lakhs. Even if there is a decrease in revenue under this head it is n likely to be a considerable one. It will take some time before th people will be satisfied with indigenous tobacco. For some years come import of tobacco will continue, but with the encouragement the cultivation of the plant here the quantity imported may gradual

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decrease. The Government can realise a reasonable revenue from indigenous tobacco by proper methods according to the situation from time to time.

The Government have no right to try to make capital out of the fact that the use of tobacco is deleterious to human beings. If the Government is proceeding on that principle they should prohibit the sale of tobacco except for medicinal purposes. They are not doing so. On the other hand they are, I fear, encouraging the sale of tobacco for revenue purposes. So long as the general sale of tobacco is permitted, though under a license, the cultivation of the tobacco plant should also be permitted under a license. (It need not be allowed to be carried on without license.) Otherwise the Government will only be encouraging foreigners at the unjust expense of the people of this land. Certainly this is not what a Government ought to do.

The question may be raised whether tobacco can be grown in Travancore. I know as a matter of fact that in several parts of Travancore tobacco will grow fairly well, that it *was* growing in such parts in the past and that the Government officers in accordance with the instructions of the Government deliberately destroyed the tobacco plants in various parts of the country. I have learned these facts from the words of reliable old gentlemen who had direct knowledge of these things. (I have seen tobacco growing in out-of-the-way places in Todupuzha when I was travelling there. That tobacco is very strong and if it is available in large quantities many people will be glad to use it. Of course it will be against the law.)

Wholesale destruction of even weeds and seemingly useless animals or birds may often be harmful. It may be said that tobacco is only a weed. Even then the wholesale destruction of it in the country is bad. In the economy of nature weeds too may have a legitimate place. It is only when they increase beyond certain limits that they become harmful. Some weeds may serve useful purpose of removing certain deleterious substances from the soil or of supplying some useful substances to the soil so as to make it more suitable for the growth of useful plants. (I hope Dr. Kunjan Pillai will be able to bear out that statement.) It has often been found that the destruction of certain birds has resulted in the increase of more harmful pests. There is reason to believe that the cultivation of tobacco in the State may help to check the prevalence or decrease the virulance of the diseases of cocoanut trees in the land in various ways. It is a matter of experience that the application of even the waste parts of tobacco—*kadu* as it is called—which is not useful for chewing purposes, on the tops of cocoanut trees kills certain very harmful pests which are difficult to reach by other means without irreparably injuring the trees. Some have actually used it and found it useful. By encouraging the cultivation of tobacco cheap tobacco or its waste products will be available for such application. Now the cost of tobacco is very prohibitive. In other ways also the cultivation of tobacco may help the cultivation of other useful plants. There is also the direct financial gain described at the outset (namely Rs. 50 lakhs) so long as the people are addicted to the use of tobacco.

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[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

So I submit that it is the bounden duty of the Government to permit and encourage the cultivation of tobacco in the State under the present circumstances. If they do not take prompt steps to do so the serious charge of faithlessness to the legitimate interests of the country can justly be laid at their door. Whatever may have been the condition of the country in the past its present condition is such that it will be a suicidal policy to refrain from encouraging the cultivation in the country itself of such plants as will grow in the country so long as their products are largely used by the people and are allowed by the Government to be imported and sold in immense quantities.

It may be said that the Government are trying to reduce the consumption of tobacco, since it is deleterious, by imposing a duty on it and by prohibiting its cultivation. The Government can give effect to this policy, just as much as they do at present, when cultivation of tobacco is permitted under a license.

I therefore request the Government and the House to accept the resolution.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): I second the resolution.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, under the rules now in force the cultivation of tobacco is not prohibited absolutely in this country as in the case of ganja, coca or poppy; but the regulation only places some restrictions on its cultivation. To my knowledge tobacco was not cultivated in this country to an appreciable extent at any time in the past. About 4 years ago, an attempt was made in this direction in the sister State of Cochin by a private gentleman. Tobacco was there cultivated under departmental supervision in the Chittoor taluk which adjoins the Coimbatore District but without success. The idea was then practically given up and I understand on reliable authority that no other attempt has been made since then.

It is true that the plant adapts itself to a variety of climatic conditions; but the flavour and quality of the produce, are profoundly affected by variations in climate and the nature of the soil. Very slight difference in these two factors appears to cause considerable difference in the quality of the stuff. In general, tropical and semitropical conditions as to temperature with a comparatively dry climate are expected to give the best results. Take for example the adjoining British Indian Districts. In the more fertile plains in Tinnevelly and Ramnad such as Tenkasi, Ambasamudram, Srivaikuntam paddy is grown in preference to cotton or tobacco. It is only in the dry areas where the rainfall is scanty such as Satur, Virudanagar, Koilpatti and where paddy cannot be thought of, tobacco and cotton are cultivated. I mention this to show that tobacco must give room to such staple food products as paddy, tapioca &c. whereever it is possible.

Judged by these standards, it is doubtful whether any large extent of arable land in this country will be found fit for tobacco cultivation

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The hills and the hill slopes in our country are from their very nature unfit for tobacco cultivation. Then with a heavy rainfall ranging from 75 to 150 inches per annum, a good portion of the Trivandrum District and the whole of Quilon and Kottayam Districts and the High Range will be found unsuitable for the growth of this plant. In my humble opinion Nanchanad with its dry climate is the only place that can be thought of in this connection. Even there, it is a matter for great doubt, whether any large extent of land will be available for this purpose. Much of the lands there has already been taken up for paddy cultivation and the owners of paddy fields will never think of exchanging tobacco for paddy. Further, it is an economical question whether in the larger interests of the State it is prudent to grow tobacco which is a mere luxury on lands on which such staple food products as paddy, tapioca, cocoanut, pepper and ginger can be grown.

From the statistics available I gather that we require roughly 20,000 candies of tobacco for consumption in a year. The average output of tobacco being a candy per acre, we require 20,000 acres of land for this cultivation. I leave it to the House to consider whether such acreage or a good portion of it at least, will be available here. It will thus be seen that the cultivation of the plant in anything like an appreciable scale is not possible in this country.

Further tobacco is an Excise product and the revenue now derived from it exceeds Rs. 20 lakhs. Any attempt to encourage the cultivation of this plant has to be made with due regard to this factor which is not negligible. So the cultivation of tobacco can be allowed in this country only under proper safeguards and under the direct supervision of the departmental agency. And this means an additional burden on the cultivator. The cultivation of tobacco in a large scale is likely to accentuate the tobacco habit and will give room to illicit smuggling also. For these reasons I oppose the motion.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): We wish to hear the Director of Agriculture on the subject.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, when I saw this resolution I thought it was a resolution affecting the revenue and that I would not have to speak on it. But since the members on the other side of the House wish to hear me on this question of the cultivation of tobacco, I shall speak a few words. The cultivation of tobacco, Sir, requires a dry climate. No doubt it will grow in any climate where the rain-fall is 200 inches or even more. Under such conditions it will grow and produce leaves, but ordinary raw leaf is not tobacco. It has got to be cured, then only we will get what we ordinarily use as tobacco for chewing or smoking or snuffing. The point Mr. Raman Menon urged was, that tobacco will grow in Travancore for he has seen plants growing in certain parts of the State. The flavour and taste will however be different from what people are accustomed to when you convert the leaf that is grown in Travancore into cured tobacco. In British India where tobacco is cultivated, the climate is dry and rainfall low. This is very important for the proper growth of tobacco. In

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[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

places mentioned by Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai, the rainfall is less than 30 inches and there tobacco is grown under irrigation. In Travancore I find there is hardly a place fit for tobacco cultivation. Even in South Travancore where you have a rainfall of roughly about 30 inches—Nagercoil has got 40 or 45 inches—the soil is not suitable for tobacco cultivation. The soil there is best fitted for paddy cultivation. and if at all I can think of any place fit for tobacco growing it is the Aramboly side, where there is a flat tract of country between Aramboly and Tovala. This portion is not commanded by the Kothayar project. You may be able to grow tobacco there, though not of the best quality. Even then, the land available for cultivation is only very limited. In Canara, tobacco is being cultivated on sandy soil under irrigation. It has a higher rainfall than Nagercoil.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it South Canara or North Canara?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): South Canara. There what is done is this. The cultivators sow the seed just after the North east Monsoon and take the crop before the South West Monsoon sets in. This is just about the season when they sow in seed, and right through summer they irrigate the crop. But the locality there is near the sea coast. The cultivators have only to dig about 2 feet to get water for irrigation and they also heavily manure the soil.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether he is in a position to give the rate of rainfall in Jaffna.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not got the figures. I think it is considerably less than in Travancore.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is it not situated in the Monsoon region?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I do not think it is.

As I said at the beginning, tobacco cultivation requires a very dry climate, and for curing the raw leaf that is produced, we want a suitable climate. The only suitable place I can think of is Aramboly side. But even there there is some difficulty in the matter of irrigation during summer.

Then again tobacco cultivation requires heavy manuring, and intensive cultivation. You have to apply heavy dozes of manure in the soil of ordinary fertility. I am told that in places where they cultivate tobacco they invest about Rs. 100 for farmyard manure and about 40 to 50 rupees for chemical manures and the total cost of cultivation will be about Rs. 400 per acre. In this respect tobacco is like sugarcane crop. If a person invests about Rs. 400 per acre, he is sure to get about Rs. 800 income so that he will get a net profit of about Rs. 400. So the point is, the lands you select for cultivation must be capable of being treated to intensive methods of cultivation. You have to terrace and level the land. Then you have to apply heavy doses of manures and constantly water the crop.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know the amount of tobacco that can be produced in one acre of land?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): That depends upon the conditions of the soil and climate. The average may be taken as 1000 lbs per acre, or even more provided the soil is fertile and is heavily manured.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): But is the member aware that the strip of land between Kasatod and Ullod bridge is in the same position as South Canara.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It may be. But then the cultivators sow the seed and irrigate the crop in summer.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Are they able to get some profit?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes.

In Travancore we have only a very limited tract of land suitable for tobacco cultivation and watering is also difficult. It is therefore I say that the cultivation of tobacco is not a feasible proposition so far as Travancore is concerned. As I said in the beginning, if a man wants to undertake tobacco cultivation, he must spend about Rs. 400 for one acre and constant attention must be bestowed on intensive cultivation. If he adopts this plan he will get profit.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): If the very matter of tobacco cultivation is difficult, then why not you abolish the embargo on tobacco cultivation itself. Why do you impose an embargo?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am only speaking on the scientific aspect of tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation requires a dry climate and heavy application of manure. There must be facilities for irrigation and the man who undertakes the work must be prepared to invest a good sum of money to raise a good crop. As I said in the beginning, from the nature of the land available, I cannot think of any except the tract between Aromboly and Tovala as suitable for tobacco growing. There are hardly any Government lands in Travancore as in British India for cultivation of tobacco. Now the lands I have referred to are at the frontier. They are registered holdings of private individuals. If at all any body wants to grow tobacco, he has not got sufficient lands under his control. If cultivation is permitted it must be done in a compact block. If you allow each and every man to cultivate tobacco, there is room for smuggling. We have to confine cultivation to a compact area and that under a license. I cannot think of suitable tracts where sufficient lands for cultivation of tobacco may be had in a compact block. Hence, both from the point of view of scientific cultivation as well as of Government revenue, this is not an advisable adventure to be attempted.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is the Director aware that the lands lying between Muppandal and Tovala covers about an area of 10,000 acres.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes. They are not Government lands and people grow there Cholam and other food crops, and they will not unite and undertake tobacco cultivation.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Could not the Government acquire them for this purpose?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Whether it is a practicable proposition, I will leave it to the House to decide.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are not the lands lying idle?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): They are not kept idle. Cholam is being cultivated there. It is a very important food crop.

Then again there is another difficulty. For the cultivation of tobacco, water is needed and the wells there are very deep.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Is the Director positive that no tobacco cultivation is feasible without irrigation?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am positive; you can cultivate tobacco without any irrigation and you may be able to produce some kind of raw leaf. Whether it could be cured into good tobacco, is doubtful.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): That is what I wanted to know.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): For curing you require good climatic conditions. Stagnation of water in the soil is very injurious to the crop. The tobacco we get from Jaffna is of the best quality. You cannot get that kind from the British Districts. The best quality can be produced only through a special process of fermentaoin caused by certain organisms present in that locality. These conditions are not found in Travancore.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): Has he any practical experience in the matter?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not tried tobacco cultivation myself. As a matter of fact, I only say what I have read in books and heard from other people. This question of tobacco cultivation was brought up in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Then Government wanted to make an experiment and I suggested that somebody might be deputed to Jaffna to study the conditions obtaining there in regard to cultivation of tobacco. Subsequently, the proposal was dropped.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the member aware that in the neighbouring tract of Panagudy there is tobacco cultivation ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Yes I know that. But there is no duty on tobacco there.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Am I to understand that because there is loss of revenue, tobacco cultivation cannot be encouraged ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : That is also a point to be considered.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what is the nature of the fermentation process referred to by you ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It is a technical question. If I have to deal with it I will have to trot out so many bacteria and the names of other technical matters unintelligible to laymen.

MR. L. A. LAMPARD (*Planters*) : In Sumatra there is cultivation of tobacco once in eight years and there are no irrigation facilities.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : What is the rate of rainfall there ?

MR. L. A. LAMPARD (*Planters*) : Roughly about 90 inches.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : When do they cultivate.

MR. L. A. LAMPARD (*Planters*) : In the dry season. The lands are heavily manured at great expense.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It all depends on the soil ; in Travancore the soil has very little retentive capacity.

MR. L. A. LAMPARD (*Planters*): But then the cultivation is only once in eight years.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Sir, I am not convinced by the observations of either the Excise Commissioner or the Director of Agriculture that the cultivation of tobacco should be absolutely prohibited. Mr. Lampard has been saying that in Sumatra, tobacco is being cultivated without irrigation. One point that I wanted to find out was whether without irrigation tobacco cultivation is absolutely impossible.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : My personal experience is, as I said, that irrigation is necessary for cultivation because the Travancore soil is such that if you do not get rain for a few days it dries up and the crop suffers if not irrigated. But in Sumatra the soil may be such that if it rains for a single day, it may have the power of retaining moisture for a number of days.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): I was going to say that as Dr. Kunjan Pillai was asked to speak on the spur of the moment he might not have studied all the aspects of the question.

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I suggest that experiments should be made to see whether tobacco cultivation could be carried on in our country at least in selected localities. We may take one acre of land in a hilly place, say like Punalur, or Padmanabhapuram and experiment on it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is he aware that the nature of the soil between Muppandal and Tovala is exactly identical with the soil of Panagudi where tobacco is grown?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): I accept the member's assurance. But the point is, the matter should be studied exhaustively by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Department of Excise, because we are often tantalized by the knowledge that in the neighbouring districts like Coimbatore and Tinnevelly, they are making enormous profits from tobacco cultivation. I do not think there is any cultivation in Travancore where we can make a profit of one hundred per cent within one year. We make some profit in rubber and tea but that requires long waiting. If one can get such a large profit in so short a period I think capital will be forthcoming. There is no difficulty for that here in Travancore. Once you are sure of the possibilities of the cultivation, I am sure, sufficient number will be forth coming to take up the experiment.

I think no case has been made out for the absolute prohibition of tobacco cultivation. Dr. Kunjan Pillai said that there have been several representations in the Popular Assembly and it has been going on for several years in successive Assemblies. I think the energies of the department will be well spent in making an experiment of the kind. If the experiment succeeds, rules should be framed to enable people to take it up. With these words I support the resolution.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): I have to add the following remarks in support of the resolution. The member on the other side of the House opposed the resolution on few grounds. First is, that the climate and the soil of Travancore are not suitable for cultivation of tobacco. If that is a ground for not taking away prohibition, I may submit that the Government need not be very anxious about it. If tobacco is not allowed to grow, what is the fun of prohibiting it? From a scientific standpoint or from a technical standpoint, I would not be able to say whether tobacco would grow in Travancore or not. But in the former Alangad Taluk, I know, for some time past, tobacco was cultivated on a small scale.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Were the cultivators not caught by Government?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): It was not in my living memory.

The Commissioner suggested that this is not a profitable one from an economic point of view. I think we may very well leave it, whether it is a profitable concern or not, to the agriculturists themselves. That industry will shift of its own accord if it is not a profitable one. Government need not be very anxious on that score also. So, if the Government are going to stand on these two grounds, I do not think their stand is a firm one.

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The other is the revenue question. That is a very serious question which should be solved. Mr. Raman Menon says, that nearly 20 lakhs of Rupees, Government are getting from tobacco. But can we not get the same amount of revenue even taking away the prohibition on cultivation? Can we not devise some scheme or other, by issuing licenses for cultivation or imposing a duty per acre of cultivation, or by some other methods. Could we not get that revenue at present, even taking away the prohibition? Such a thing is worth trying in my opinion.

Then there is another difficulty namely supervising the cultivation and controlling illicit trade. We may leave these points to the consideration of the Excise Department. These reasons cannot stand in the way of the citizen's liberty of cultivating a natural product. I do not know, beyond these reasons, there are any other reasons actuating the Government to prohibit cultivation. With these few words, I support the resolution of Mr. Raman Menon.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഒരു വർഷം മുമ്പു അതായതു് ഫൻ ൨൧-ൽ നവംബർമാസത്തിൽ ഇതേ പ്രമേയം ഞാൻ തന്നെ ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. പക്ഷേ ആ പ്രമേയം കുറെക്കൂടി വിശാലമായിരുന്നു. തെങ്ങു, ഈട്ടി, ചന്ദനം, പുകയില ഇവയോ യുക്തമെന്നുതോന്നുന്ന മറു ചെടികളോ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളോ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനും, കൃഷിചെയ്തോ താനേമുളച്ചോ ഉണ്ടായവയെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നൽകണമെന്നായിരുന്നു ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയം. എന്നാൽ ആ പ്രമേയം പാസ്സാകാനിടയായില്ല. തെങ്ങുതടിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിനു മാത്രം ഉടനെ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. അതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടായുമില്ല.

ഫൻ ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം രൂപാ കഴിഞ്ഞവർഷം കോയമ്പത്തൂർ, യാപ്പാണം മുതലായ വിദേശ പുകയിലയുടെ മേൽലാഭം ഇനത്തിൽ വരുവുണ്ടു്. വിലയായി എത്രയോ ലക്ഷം പോയിരിക്കണം. ഈ കർഷകരാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ നാൾക്കുനാൾ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവരുടെ പണമാണു വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു പോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതനുസരിച്ചു ഓരോ പൌരനും കൃഷിക്കുള്ള ഭൂമികുറഞ്ഞു കുറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നു എന്നും തന്നിമിത്തം ദാരിദ്ര്യം അധികരിച്ചു വരുന്നു എന്നുമുള്ളതു സ്പഷ്ടമാണു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഏതേതുകൃഷികളാൺ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആദായകര

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[Mr. Tariattu Kunjitomman.]

മായിട്ടുചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതു്? ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമം എന്തുമാതിരി കൃഷിചെയ്താലാണു് വർദ്ധിക്കുക? ഇതുകളെ പററി ആലോചിച്ചു വേണ്ട മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു ജനങ്ങളെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു് ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു. നൂതനമായ കൃഷിക്രമം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു വ്യാപരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഏററവും ജാഗ്രതയോടുകൂടി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു വർത്തിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണു് പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നതു്.

ഈരാജ്യത്തു് എന്തു കൃഷിചെയ്യാം, ആകൃഷിയെ എങ്ങനെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്താം എന്നു നോക്കുന്നതിനു ധനവ്യയംചെയ്തു് കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് വഴി പരിശ്രമിച്ചു വരുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇന്നയിന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻപാടില്ലാ ഇന്നയിന്ന കൃഷികളെ ചെയ്യാൻപാടില്ലാ എന്നെല്ലാം നിയന്ത്രണങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കി ജനങ്ങളുടെ കൃഷി സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തെ തടഞ്ഞു ജനങ്ങളെ കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിൽ അധഃപതിപ്പിക്കുന്ന നയം സ്വീകരിച്ചു വരുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ പുകയില ധാരാളം കൃഷിചെയ്യാം. മലവാസികൾ ഇപ്പോൾ പുകയിലകൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു. പക്ഷെ പ്രാകൃതമായ രീതിയിൽ ആയിരിക്കും അവർ കൃഷി ചെയ്തു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാരും ഫാറസ്റ്റുകാരും അതിനു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ മുളയിലെ നശിപ്പിച്ചുകളയുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പുകയിലകൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ളസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നൽകിയാൽ നമുക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള പുകയില ഇവിടെതന്നെ കൃഷി ചെയ്തെടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇക്കൊല്ലം പുകയില മേൽലാഭത്തിൽ ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപയാണു് ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഇതിലും വർദ്ധിക്കും. അതനുസരിച്ചു അന്യ ദേശത്തേക്കു പോകുന്നപണത്തിൻെറ തുകയും വർദ്ധിക്കും. ഇതിനെ തടയേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണു്.

അതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തേയും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ക്ഷേമത്തേയും ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നവരോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കേണ്ടവരോ ആയ മാന്യജനപ്രതിനിധികളും എല്ലാവരും ഏകാഭിപ്രായമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറു തന്നെയും ഇതിൽ അനുഭാവം കാണിച്ചു ഓട്ടിനിടാൻ ഇടയാക്കാതെ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. പുകയില കൃഷി ഇവിടെ ചെയ്യുന്ന പ

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ക്ഷം കുറെ നാളത്തേയ്ക്കു മേൽലാഭം ഇനത്തിലുള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പ് കുറയുമായിരിക്കാം. അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ പുകയില കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന ഭൂമിയുടെ കരത്തിന്റെ നിരക്കു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ച് നഷ്ടത്തിനു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കാം.

MR. G, RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Karthikapalli*) : ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പുകയിലക്കു കരം വയ്ക്കാമല്ലോ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : കൃഷി അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടതിനമേൽ മാത്രമേ കരം ചുമത്താവൂ. കൃഷി ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ കൃഷി വർദ്ധിക്കയില്ല.

ഇവിടെ പുകയില കൃഷി അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുന്നതനുസരിച്ചു പുറത്തു നിന്നും വരുന്ന പുകയിലയുടെ തീരുവ ക്രമേണം. അങ്ങിനെ ക്രമേണയുള്ള ഗവർൺമെൻറു മുതലെടുപ്പിനും നാട്ടിലെ കൃഷിവർദ്ധനക്കും സഹായമായിരിക്കും. ഏലം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഇങ്ങനെയായിരുന്നു. മുമ്പു ഇവിടെ ഏലം സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായിട്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായിട്ടു കൃഷി ചെയ്യാൻ അനുവദിക്കയും കരം ഇനത്തിൽ ഒരു നല്ല സംഖ്യ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ആദായമായി ലഭിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കുരുമുളകിന്റെ കാര്യവും. പണ്ടു ഇവിടെ കുരുമുളകു കൃഷി ചെയ്താൽ ഗവർമെൻറിൽ ഏല്പിക്കണമായിരുന്നു. അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി കൃഷി ചെയ്യാൻ വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തതിനുശേഷം തീരുവഇനത്തിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു പൂർവ്വാധികം ആദായം ഉണ്ടായിതുടങ്ങി. പണ്ടു മുളകു മടിശ്ശീല എന്ന ഏർപ്പാടുണ്ടായിരുന്നകാലംപോലെ മുളകു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനകിട്ടുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഒരു നല്ലസംഖ്യ തീരുവയായി ലഭിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. സർ ടി. മാധവറാവുവിന്റെ കാലത്താണ് കുരുമുളകു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി കൃഷി ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളാൻ അനുവദിച്ചതു്. ഏലം വീ. പി. മാധവറാവുവിന്റെ കാലത്തും.

പുകയിലകൃഷി നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുമ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെൻറിനു ആദ്യംകുറെ നഷ്ടം വന്നാലും ഒടുവിൽ നല്ല ആദായം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല. ഈ സാധനം ഇവിടെ ജനങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു ശീലിച്ചുപോയതുകൊണ്ടു ഇനിയും വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു പോകുന്ന തുക ക്രമവിരാനേ മാർഗ്ഗമൊള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നവരെല്ലാവരും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെയ്ക്കാവശ്യമായ പുകയില ഇവിടെ കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നൽകണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഏകാഭിപ്രായമായ അനുകൂലിക്കേണ്ടതാണു.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): പുകയിലയുടെ വിലയായി എത്ര ലക്ഷം രൂപ വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു പോകുന്നുണ്ട്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെ എക്സൈസ് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഏകദേശം ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചില്വാനം രൂപയാണ് എന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): അതു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവാണ്. പുകയിലയുടെ വില അതിലും വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): കൂടുതലായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു പുറത്തേക്കു പോകുന്ന തുകയെ മുൻപറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ തടയേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I wish to speak a few words in support of the resolution. At the outset I may be permitted to say that I was really gratified to find that the Ag. Excise Commissioner impressed the House very much. In fact his speech was very brief and I did not notice much of the savour of rattling whenever there was an opposition from the other side of the House. But I must confess that Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai really missed the point. If I understood him correctly the position that he maintained was that lands are not sufficiently available in the State. He made a case that an acre will be capable of producing only one candy and in view of the consumption of about twenty thousand candies a year at least twenty thousand acres will be required for producing tobacco for local consumption. I need not labour to refute that point inasmuch as the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries refuted it himself. He said that between one and two candies of tobacco may be grown in one acre. Of course if there is more intensive cultivation supplemented by heavy manuring, the production may be increased. As the Director of Agriculture admitted that there is a large tract of land lying between Aramboli frontier and Tovala which is at present to a great extent lying idle, I need not myself refer to it. Perhaps Mr. Vipan, the Chief Engineer may not be aware that there was an agitation for opening a reservoir called the Malakettukulam reservoir. It was represented in the Assembly that this reservoir was necessary and in the course of that representation Government also accepted the position that in case the Malakettukulam reservoir was opened it was capable of irrigating lands between 5000 to 10000 acres on the Aramboly frontier. I may be permitted to inform the House that the Malakettukulam reservoir will be capable of irrigating all that tract of land. I may be permitted to bring to the notice of the Director of Agriculture that this is the land which is identical in nature and in all its features with the land lying near the British Indian Territory.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member whether the Boring machine will be of any use for the purpose of irrigation or for any other purpose?

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): It has been tried in Mangamalai where it was of use. It is not necessary to dig a well which will be more than 80 feet in depth. The land is very shallow: at any rate it is exactly in the same level as the Panagudi land. It is enough if the diggers go to a depth of 50 feet. In Aramboly there are many wells where water appears at an average depth of 40 feet. As Mr. Lampard by way of interruption pointed out that irrigation is not necessary for the cultivation of tobacco, I think I need not labour the point further. If it is necessary, water can be had at a depth of 30 or 40 feet in the Aramboly frontier. As Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai said that paddy, tapioca and other food crops are preferred to this, I may say that paddy could not be grown unless the reservoir scheme is consummated. Even if it is consummated it could not be known whether it will irrigate more than 7000 acres. But if irrigation is necessary water can be had at about 30 or 40 feet depth. Anyhow until that scheme is taken up why not the Government permit the people to cultivate tapioca in that land at least until the scheme is worked out. Dr. Kunjan Pillai said that cultivation of tobacco would give cent per cent profit. If that is the case why not ask the people instead of going in for the Malakettukulam reservoir for the cultivation of paddy and tapioca, to go in for the cultivation of tobacco. Even now tobacco is being grown by some hillmen, as well as in South Canara. There they are growing it with a great amount of fear for their own consumption.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, may I know why he did not bring it to the notice of the Excise Commissioner?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Thousand times. But still they are continuing it. What I want to bring out is this; that not only in and about Aramboly but also in the east of Kuzhithura some land is fit for the cultivation of tobacco. If it is accepted by Government certainly they cannot have any objection to the growing of tobacco for the reason that there are not proper tracts to grow it, commensurate with the requirements of our State. If the duty is really the consideration of the Government in not removing this ban on the cultivation of tobacco—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will it not bring about smuggling and will not some staff be necessary to prevent smuggling?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Well, Mr. Raman Menon will come round and say that honorary men will give their services to prevent smuggling.

If income is the reason for not removing this ban I wish to submit that if that position is pressed to its logical conclusion it will come to this. The cultivation of paddy should also be prohibited. If that is prohibited outside paddy may come in and a duty may be imposed on, say, the Rangoon Paddy. That is an absurd position. I do not know why there should be any ban on the cultivation of any plant at all. But

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

here the land is fit for cultivation of tobacco and there is also land available. By virtue of some latches on the part of the P. W. D. in not providing proper irrigation facilities it was not till now used for any cultivation.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does the member know that people are crying for disafforestation for the purpose of cultivating paddy?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): They are trying for disafforestation for so many other purposes. I donot know for certain that areas once registered in the name of individuals are not only not used for paddy cultivation but are sold away indiscriminately. In regard to the argument that the income will diminish Mr. Raman Menon has no objection even to take away the revenue from the indigenous tobacco. I am really glad that the Government do not take up the position that tobacco is deleterious and as such, as a humanitarian duty, imposed a ban. But the Excise Commissioner has maintained another position If that be the case we are in season and out of season trying for prohibition of liquor. But in regard to tobacco particularly when we people are prepared to take up the burden of contributing this revenue in some other form the position is very simple.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) Is the member for the substitution of tobacco to liquor?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The member is at liberty to think as he likes particularly when he makes his enquiries at random.

So the position of the Government cannot be maintained for a moment on the question of revenue. Further there is no dearth of land. We have large tracts of land still available. And as such if there is any difficulty with regard to irrigation it is not at all insurmountable I believe Government could not maintain that position and I hope they will accept the resolution very gladly.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I was closely listening to the speeches made by Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai and Dr. Kunjan Pillai. And I find that while they were opposing the resolution severally they were supporting it together. While Dr. Kunjan Pillai maintained that tobacco could not be grown in Travancore Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai maintained that an embargo was necessary. If cultivation was impossible then the embargo must be meaningless; if the embargo was necessary then the cultivation of tobacco must be possible. From their speeches I took their verdict to be in favour of the resolution. The Department of Agriculture has been indulging in experiments and at this late hour of the day Dr. Kunjan Pillai made a clean breast of the whole thing and said that he has not made an experiment in tobacco. While as a matter of fact tobacco is one of the great articles of consumption in this land and it is also grown in the neighbouring districts, it is regrettable to find that they have not thought it advisable to try that experiment in Travancore. It is clear from the fact that the embargo was in existence, that tobacco cultivation

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was possible and was in vogue before. I cannot concede the position of the Government that there should be control over the cultivation of tobacco. I do not see an embargo on wine-making or pear growing because there is no vine or pear here. Therefore the cultivation of tobacco must necessarily be possible. Then the question comes can we be allowed to do so. Two reasons have been advanced against that. One, that it will take away the revenue and, two, that it will give an impetus to the increased consumption of tobacco which is bad. As to the first point, I may say that the department are making their attempt to prevent smuggling. When we have got a first class department like the Excise who are preventing it now, I do not see the force of the argument. If they say that they are not able to do that they must show up their hands and make a clean breast of it. With regard to the second point let me say that there is already the consumption of tobacco. The only prohibition is in cultivation and not in consumption. At present the Government only say let the revenue go outside. That is the main point. Because we are unable to prevent smuggling it is said that tobacco should not be grown. I am against the use of tobacco personally but what I say is that we allow knives to be made here. Knives may be made use of for right purpose or wrong purpose. Tobacco, it must be seen, cannot be used for any wrong purpose. It is like an old lady's argument.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member whether tobacco can be put to any good purpose?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not know that. What I say is that the bottom is knocked out of the argument that they will be giving an impetus to the consumption of tobacco when the fact is glaring at our face that tobacco is now used to any extent when the cultivation of tobacco is not allowed.

So I press the attention of the House to this serious difficulty. When the initiative is made from this side, Government make it a point to oppose it. They say that intensive cultivation will not be forthcoming. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has all along been advocating intensive cultivation. He advocates that, but at the same time fears of the whole thing.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the member know that Dr. Kunjan Pillai only spoke about the scientific aspect of the whole question?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Certainly. So I put the weight on that. I therefore say that the embargo must be removed because cultivation of tobacco was found possible.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does the member admit that at present any person can cultivate tobacco if permission is obtained for that?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not know. I am speaking as a layman, and I argued only on the points advanced.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I am very sorry that I cannot share in the glow of patriotic feeling that has arisen round the Resolution moved by my friend Mr. Raman Menon.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does he oppose or support the Resolution?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That remains to be seen. (*Laughter.*)

While Mr. Gomatinayakom Pillai spoke in response to the Resolution before the House he pointed out that there is nothing like absolute prohibition on the cultivation of tobacco in the State. That was not heeded by anybody, and on the discussion proceeding, very pertinently my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai pointed out again to the House that, under a license obtained from Government, any man is at liberty to cultivate tobacco. So, it is not because of the absolute prohibition of the cultivation of tobacco that anybody is aggrieved. No doubt, if the cultivation of tobacco is such a lucrative thing as has been suggested by the Director of Agriculture and, on the strengh of that suggestion, as repeated by the other members, every facility certainly should be afforded to the citizens of this State to take to the cultivation of tobacco and to turn an honest penny by such cultivation. (Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, *Louder please*).

But the question requires deeper consideration.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): May I know whether any condition is attached to the getting of a license for the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Every license certainly implies a condition.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): That is only a money condition, that is, money should be given.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What the further conditions, if any, are I am not now in a position to tell you.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): I wish to know that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The member may refer to the rules, if any, on the subject. There is the Tobacco Regulation in Travancore. The member is at liberty to study it.

Then the question is how is it that after all the cultivation of tobacco does not seem to progress in the State? The three main uses to which tobacco is put in the State are the following:—

First for the purpose of chewing
Secondly for the purpose of smoking, and
Thirdly for the purpose of using as snuff.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Then for removing pests.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Then there are certain subsidiary uses such as the use of tobacco for the purpose of removing pests and so forth. They are ranged only in the negligible

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sphere. The main purposes are the three that I mentioned. I may make mention of this fact that tobacco grown on the other side of the ghauts, that is, in Tinnevelly does not find favour at all in Travancore.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do not people get such tobacco and mixe it with jaggery and use it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That it does not find favour is my impression. My experience is to that effect.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether it is the experience in North Travancore?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Quite so. In North Travancore very few people go in for Coimbatore or Tinnevelly Tobacco. I was under the impression that this dislike of the British Indian tobacco is confined to North Travancore and Central Travancore. But an honorable member of this House hailing from South Travancore, I mean Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, was telling me the other day during tiffin time that the contagion of dislike is spreading to South Travancore, so that with respect of one main purpose to which tobacco is put in Travancore, what we observe is that unless Travancore is able to produce tobacco almost of the same description as that produced in Jaffna, there is very little chance of the cultivator here succeeding in supplying it for chewing purposes.

Then, with respect to the question of smoking, I doubt very much whether the British Indian tobacco is much in favour. You generally go in for either Egyptian tobacco or the Sumatra variety.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartigapalli*): Is it not confined to the very rich and luxurious people?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Quite so. It is only the luxurious that take an appreciable extent to smoking such tobacco. The other men, that is, the poor, go in for beedy, which costs very little.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Can we not export tobacco?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I shall just finish my argument and come to it.

Then the remaining purpose to which tobacco is put is for use as snuff. There, various considerations come in. I do not know whether all kinds of tobacco would answer the purpose quite as well. Our refined snuff-takers in Travancore generally seem to get down their snuff from Madras, as the preparation itself involves certain peculiar process. Considering these three aspects the question arises to be considered whether any cultivator in Travancore can produce tobacco answering the purposes for which tobacco is needed in Travancore. So, before we are prepared to throw open the cultivation of tobacco and bring it within the reach of the subjects of the State unlicensed and as free as the air, we have to ascertain whether after all there is the possibility of competing with foreign markets in this respect. For that, what I would first request the Government is to

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conduct some experiments in this direction at the combined instance of the Director of Industries and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Department of Industries through their geological experts will have to see whether proper soil and proper ground can be obtained, not losing sight of rain fall, etc.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Has the Industrial Department anything to do with it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They may by boring experiments find out whether suitable land can be had, and Dr. Kunjan Pillai may be asked to conduct suitable experiments. And if he succeeds let there be an encouragement for further advance in the direction. Before that I do not know whether it is practical politics to talk about throwing open lands for cultivation and removing fetters and all that. I beg to submit that so far as I am concerned I have to remain sceptical at this stage of our present relation with tobacco.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he cannot agree to the exportation of tobacco?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, by all means. But the question is before you think of exporting you must produce article of such a variety as would be demanded in the market and not stuff which would not be demanded even in your own land.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is not the kind of tobacco grown in the neighbouring parts demanded here?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It may be demanded here for certain purposes, not for all purposes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are they not demanded elsewhere?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am not quite certain whether Indian tobacco is in demand in Egypt.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Did the member analyse from what kind of tobacco Government estimated the revenue of 19 lakhs?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I think to a considerable extent the Coimbatore and Jaffna variety.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any objection to cultivating tobacco of the Coimbatore variety?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Whether one can produce it here is the question that has to be considered?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does he know that the variety of tobacco cultivated in Panagudy is of the same nature as the one cultivated in Coimbatore?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am not certain.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Has he any objection in leaving the matter to private enterprise?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): As it is, there is scope for private enterprise and we don't see any private agency coming

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forward. I ask the question why? Because they find it difficult to compete with foreign markets and any out-put that are able to command here may not find a market even here.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) Does the member know that nobody has applied for license as ye here?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Quite so, because nobody thinks that there would be any profit.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is it because the cultivator thinks it not profitable or is it because of the difficulty of satisfying conditions for the license.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There are various trades, industries, etc., that require license to be taken out, and people take to them; therefore it cannot be said that license stands in the way.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries has said that if properly grown Travancore tobacco can stand comparison with any other. Is it not therefore the duty of Government to encourage such cultivation of tobacco?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The Director was not certainly speaking with respect to Travancore tobacco for the simple reason that it does not exist. He has been speaking with respect to other tobacco.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): No, he has been saying that if special facilities were given for the cultivation of tobacco by means of intensive cultivation and manure and good irrigation, we can produce the best variety which can stand comparison with tobacco from other places.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am just asking the Director whether he himself has conducted any experiment on that and what the data for his forecast are?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does not the resolution require Government to give encouragement for the cultivation of tobacco and as such why should the member remain sceptical?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): For, nothing has been proved in this instance which would make a person sanguine that the cultivation of tobacco will thrive and yield a profit.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Has not the Director said that it would give sufficient gain provided all facilities are given. Does it not therefore behove Government to encourage the cultivation of tobacco in view of the explanation given by the Director?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does the member know that the Government cannot grant soil?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): This sort of questioning has no meaning.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does not the resolution make mention of the fact that the cultivation of tobacco requires every encouragement?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The resolution speaks for itself. The member may read the resolution and ascertain whether it speaks of encouragement to the cultivation of tobacco. It does not require any answer from me.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is there any harm in giving people complete freedom to cultivate tobacco?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): What is the harm?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Any person may cultivate it upon a very small plot of ground, and on the strength of that a number of other people will begin smuggling tobacco into Travancore. Then, it will be very difficult for detection in many cases.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is there not the same trouble with respect to arrack and toddy?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to arrack there is no such difficulty for any producer of arrack must necessarily have a license. But in the case of any tobacco cultivator you leave him at large. And that is sufficient latitude for any smuggler. When a person is in possession of arrack he cannot plead that he produced it if he has no license. Arrack is on a different footing.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That only argues that sufficient preventive measures have not been found out.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Therefore the provision of law requiring license for the cultivation of tobacco is necessary and is a very wise provision of law so far as I can see.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is it only from the Excise stand-point that he objects?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I believe my friend has been listening to me and I cannot go back upon the grounds already referred to.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): He said that the only harm was as regards smuggling.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I never said 'the only harm'. With respect to the question that had been put whether there is need for license I said there is.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): My question was what was the harm in giving complete freedom to people to cultivate tobacco and he said there was the trouble of smuggling. Does Mr. Narayana Pillai now say that there is any other objection?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What if it is the only objection at present.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): So, has Mr. Narayana Pillai made up his mind against the resolution?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, I have not made up my mind absolutely against the resolution. I say that even if the resolution is going to be carried, effect will have to be given to it only after some experiments are conducted by the departments.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether this is the only reason why perfect freedom should not be given?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is not the only reason.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the other reasons?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the member aware that the work of the Excise Department during the last fifty years has been such that practically there has been an embargo on the cultivation of tobacco just as there is in the case of tapping sweet toddy from the coconanut palm?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So far as I know very few people are cultivating tobacco in this State.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it not due to the fact that the Government officers have been discouraging?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not know whether they have been actively discouraging.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Have they encouraged?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I point out that it is time?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They are in a position of armed neutrality.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I am inclined to agree with Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, and although the arguments all point to one conclusion I am bold enough to say that I oppose the resolution. In the first place the resolution requires that the ban should be removed. Section 4 of the Tobacco Regulation says,

"Except as permitted by this Regulation, or by any other enactment relating to tobacco for the time being in force, or by Rules published under this Regulation or under any such enactment, no one shall cultivate .. .. tobacco".

So, this Section does not absolutely prohibit the cultivation of tobacco.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Have rules been framed under that Regulation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I am coming to that. Section 31 of the Regulation says.

"Our Dewan may, with Our sanction from time to time by Notification in the Gazette, make Rules consistent with this Regulation.

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

(a) permitting absolutely or subject to the payment of any duty or fee or to any other conditions, and regulating, within the whole or any specified part of Travancore, the cultivation .. ... of tobacco".

Thus, with sufficient safeguards the Government may permit either absolutely or with restrictions the cultivation of tobacco.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Would not this amount to recommending to Government that they should give permission permanently to cultivate tobacco?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): The Section gives the power to Government to permit absolutely or subject to other conditions within the whole or any specified area of Travancore the cultivation, manufacture and sale of tobacco.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from the member whether the Government have framed any rules with regard to that?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I think my friend may have asked the Government member as to that.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Without knowing that, how can the member oppose the resolution?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): If the member would only wait and have the patience to hear what I say then perhaps he may find no necessity for putting the question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There will be no possibility of questioning you if you state all the facts.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I may say that, so far as questioning is concerned, it is only intended to elicit information and not to thrust one's views upon the member speaking. That is just what it comes to. What I say is that there is no difficulty at all. The Government, subject to such safeguards as they deem necessary, may permit absolutely or with restrictions in the whole or any specified area of Travancore the cultivation of tobacco. Then the question is whether such a rule is passed. I am informed by the Law Member and the Excise Commissioner that subject to getting a license one can cultivate tobacco. Supposing there is no rule passed, if a regulation allows the framing of rules and the rules, if framed, may enable a person to cultivate tobacco subject to certain conditions, I say the absence of the framing of rules is entirely due to the fact that no necessity was felt for it. If a regulation is passed without any rules being framed although there is an enabling section to frame rules, the fact that no rules were passed would simply mean that there was no necessity for it, in other words that there was no applicant who wanted to cultivate tobacco. Nobody has come forward saying "I want to cultivate tobacco subject to the necessary supervision and control of the Excise Department. Please permit me to do it." Then probably the Government would have considered his application and framed rules.

MR. C. P TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): Can any one apply unless the rules are framed?

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MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): My humble submission is that we are trying to discuss upon a point not knowing whether anybody is prepared to cultivate. But before doing that, before knowing whether anybody is prepared to go in for the cultivation of tobacco, if we remove the ban, I believe it will have a dangerous effect and that is what my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai pointed out. There is absolutely no comparison whatsoever between tobacco and liquor. In the case of liquor no person is allowed to possess more than a certain small quantity, but in the case of tobacco the moment it gets out of the control of the Department anybody can possess any quantity without accounting for it. For instance, in Trivandrum or Quilon any man may own any large quantity. You can buy 25 candies and keep it in your House not only for your own family but also for others and there will be absolutely no prohibition to your keeping it.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Can you do the same thing with wine?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): No. I am not an expert in the matter and my friend the Excise Commissioner says that one cannot possess more than 8 drams. You will be caught if you have more than that unless when the Excise Commissioner comes to inspect you, you conceal it in your stomach. I believe there is considerable difference between the two. I think that when my friend was talking about cultivation of tobacco Mr. Sivatanu Pillai spoke about the cultivation of tobacco at Panagudi. I remember to have seen the figures once, but I do not remember them now. Tinnevelly tobacco is not wanted in any part of Travancore except a few candies in Kottar. I remember that only a very small quantity of Tinnevelly tobacco is wanted in Travancore and all the rest of the tobacco that is wanted here comes from Coimbatore and Jaffna.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Is not the same quantity coming down year by year?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Yes. I have not been chewing tobacco and therefore I know nothing about it. Mr. P. K Narayana Pillai was saying that Jaffna tobacco is better than Coimbatore tobacco and that Tinnevelly tobacco is not at all liked except by a few. I do not know whether cultivation of tobacco on a large scale will be profitable and on economic basis whether it can be cultivated. Anyhow, throwing open the whole thing without sufficient safeguards will be a very serious matter and at any rate a financial loss in the revenue that is steadily growing up. So, without sufficient safeguards it is not advisable to throw the whole thing open. I agree with Mr. Narayana Pillai on that point. It should be cultivated on a satisfactory basis so as to meet the demands of Travancore. If we all on a sudden see that the ban is removed, I do not know whether the new Excise Commissioner will be able to realise any revenue under this head.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member—

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MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I dare say that Dr. Kunjan Pillai is intelligent enough to make an experiment in one of his farms and see that the tobacco cultivated there does not get out of the farm and there is no possibility of there being smuggling in other parts of Travancore. If he is successful enough, then I think Government may be requested to frame rules with sufficient safeguards to the cultivation of tobacco. As it is, the resolution simply wants to remove the ban absolutely which is not advisable under the present circumstances without knowing anything about tobacco cultivation. All of us who spoke before, I am sure, have no experience about tobacco cultivation and no one came forward saying "I know. As a matter of fact I have witnessed, and studied the details or tried it myself." No one said that he or his relation or his friend took up to tobacco cutivation. If that had been forthcoming, it would be some sort of thing for anybody to go upon. As it is, I do not think it is safe to accept the resolution.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I point out to the member that the difficulty in making experiments is the very argument on our side?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): It is for the department to make an experiment and the question of removing the ban contemplated by the resolution can be taken up after the experiment is found to be successful and there are people coming forward to take to the cultivation of tobacco. The resolution says that the embargo on the cultivation of tobacco in the State should be removed and that its cultivation should be encouraged. The resolution is absolute and I do not think it is subject to any condition or safeguard that the Government may deem fit. I do not find such a condition in the resolution. As it is, I think, if we accept the resolution in its entirety, it will be very difficult to get the revenue and any amount of smuggling can take place and it is impossible for any department, however big it may be, to scrutinise whether in a particular small hilly tract some tobacco is cultivated and on that pretext a large quantity is being smuggled. I therefore oppose the resolution.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, it was my intention to move a resolution similar to the one now moved. Lest the learned Deputy President should say that I was also groping in the dark in regard to matters concerning tobacco cultivation on the 7th of November I interpellated Government whether any place in Travancore is suitable for tobacco cultivation. The answer was—

> 'the matter is still under correspondence with the Director of Agriculture and with the Excise Commissioner. As experiments have not as yet been made Government are not in a position to say whether any part of Travancore is suited for tobacco cultivation."

PRESIDENT: You omitted to mention the year in which the question was answered.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): It was in 1925. So then, I thought that until and unless I got that information so that I may be able to know whether tobacco can be

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cultivated here with profit or not I should not attempt to move a resolution of this sort. In the meanwhile I consulted Mr. Van Ross as to whether there was any difficulty as to the embargo and he told me that there was no difficulty and that if I applied to the Government for a license I could get it. As I could not find out whether cultivation of tobacco was profitable in as much as I did not get any information from the Government that there are lands suitable for cultivation of tobacco. I was not able to move a resolution as stated at the out set. At present, as the learned Deputy President has said, I do not think there is any ban here to be removed. The only thing is that we should know whether there is land suitable for the cultivation of tobacco. So, after an experiment has been made and if lands are suitable, I think that rules, as the learned Deputy President said, may be framed and the embargo completely removed. Therefore I also do not see my way to support this resolution.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member think that if the resolution is accepted in its entirety, it will mean the removal of a ban which the Government believes is not in existence?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): It is evident from the discussion that on the one hand there has been a misapprehension about the nature of the embargo that now exists in regard to the cultivation of tobacco. From the quotations given to us by the Deputy President and some other honorable members we understand that there is no absolute embargo on the cultivation of tobacco and it is only a question of a license to be got from the Government. But I fear that the general public are not aware of this regulated freedom of their's with regard to the cultivation of tobacco.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the member know that this license itself is an embargo on the free cultivation of tobacco?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): It may be on the *free* cultivation of tobacco. But so long as there are no prohibitory conditions as far as we know in getting the license I do not know how it can be called an embargo. There is really no ban on the cultivation. As Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai just now informed us the Agricultural Department may be asked to enquire into the possibilities of the cultivation of tobacco, to make experiments and publish the results for the information of the public so that those who have got the time and the money and the mind to venture on such schemes might take to cultivating tobacco. I would therefore request that the Government may be pleased to request the Development Board to make a report on the subject. I think the report that has been called for from the Director of Agriculture might be better called for from the Development Board of which the Director of Agriculture is the President.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any Development Board?

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Yes. I think it can very well form one of the functions of the Development Board to see whether the cultivation of tobacco is a profitable one in the State. Until we get a report either from the Development Board or from the Director of Agriculture or a combined report from the Director of Agriculture and the Excise Commissioner, I think there is nothing more to be done in this matter.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to say a few words to remove certain misunderstandings that have arisen in regard to the meaning of the resolution. I have said that the embargo on the cultivation of tobacco in the State should be removed. What I mean is a practical embargo. Strictly, according to the law, there may not be an embargo. But it is a well known fact that the Excise Department of the State has been working for the last 50 years or more, though it may not have been the Excise Department for all these years it was for some time called the Preventive Department, in such a way as to prohibit people from taking to the cultivation of tobacco. I have known that in several cases the Excise people have gone to the hilly parts where tobacco was cultivated in olden days, to remove all those things and prohibited them practically from cultivating tobacco. They are not very civilised people and they do not know law. Therefore, it has been discontinued. Thus we see that practically there has been an embargo. If there is no real embargo the Government should make it known to the people and frame the necessary rules if they are not already in existence and encourge the people to cultivate tobacco under proper safeguards. My friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai was under the impression that I wanted the cultivation of tobacco without any license at all.

In my speech I repeated over and over again that it need be allowed only under a license just as salt and toddy. Nobody can sell tobacco in the State without a license. The practical embargo should be removed. I have heard that there is no embargo in tapping cocoanuts for sweet toddy. Yet that is practically disallowed by the officers of the department. They discourage it in all possible ways because they fear that illicit tapping might go on. In the same way they fear that if the cultivation of tobacco is allowed then smuggling may take place and that it may be said that smuggled tobacco was tobacco cultivated in this State. But these fears are groundless. The department can control it as they do in the case of salt and as they do in the case of imported tobacco. They keep tobacco under their control and issue them afterwards. I don't demand that tobacco cultivation should be allowed without a license. I find that there is no real opposition to the resolution at all. My resolution is completely in accordance with the existing law. (Mr. Subba Aiyar: Then the member may withdraw the resolution.) I say it should be given practical effect to. I shall be quite content to withdraw the resolution if the Government undertake to accept the spirit of the resolution and ask the departmental officers concerned to make an experiment in the direction and try to encourage it. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai; *Hear, hear.*) With these words I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I fear there was some misapprehension on the other side of the House with regard to this question. The misapprehension is this. They somehow or other think that the cultivation of tobacco is absolutely prohibited in the State. Just to remove that misapprehension I started with the argument even at the very outset that under the Rules now in force the cultivation of tobacco is not absolutely prohibited in this country as it is in the case of ganja, cocoa or poppy. In spite of that I am very sorry that some of my friends on the other side spent much of their vehemence in fighting this shadow

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): May I know whether licenses will be given on mere application?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There has been no application so far.

PRESIDENT: It is purely a rhetorical question.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Even the mover of the resolution, I am afraid, is not very clear. He wanted the cultivation of tobacco under license. It is exactly what is provided for in the Regulation.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know the conditions attached for the granting of licenses.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There has been no application received so far. How can that point be considered when no application has been received?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is it not a matter to be considered before the receipt of applications?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): How can a person apply when he does not know under what rules he should apply?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Unless applications have been received it is not possible to consider about the conditions. Conditions may vary with the locality.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): My question is whether there are any conditions for the grant of licenses.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The condition is that tobacco may be cultivated with the special sanction of Government.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether there are any other conditions?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not to my knowledge.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will licenses be granted on the mere application for them?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall consider the question when I receive the application.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Joseph, your question relates to conditions which do not exist. Unless applications come forward the question

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[President.]

cannot be considered. Your question is directed to a non-existing circumstance and I therefore rule it out of order.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Am I to understand that there are no conditions at present?

PRESIDENT: I have already given my decision that the question is out of order and there it ends.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether any rules under the Regulation have been framed and published in the Gazette?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not to my knowledge.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Am I to understand from the member that the rules under the Regulation will be framed and published only after applications are received?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think so. Unless there is a clear necessity there is no chance for the rules being published.

Mr. Raman Menon stated that the object of his resolution was to promote cultivation of tobacco under license. That is what is exactly provided in the Regulation. My point is where is then the necessity for this resolution. It falls to the ground. I wanted to convince the House that it was impossible to find suitable lands. It is true that here tobacco may be raised. But we want tobacco of good variety and with fine flavour. What is much in demand in this country, is Coimbatore tobacco, not Tinnevelly tobacco. Only 2,000 candies of Tinnevelly tobacco are imported here every year while 14,000 candies of Coimbatore tobacco are required and imported for consumption every year. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has been good enough to advance arguments to show that it is not possible to grow good varieties of tobacco in this country.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): I wish to know from the member whether Dr. Kunjan Pillai definitely said so.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I made a note of it even at the time when he said it. While it is possible to grow more paying crops such as rubber, tapioca and pepper why raise crops of doubtful value?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Did not the Director of Agriculture say that 100 per cent profit may be derived from the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): He did say so.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is not the member aware that the Director of Agriculture expressed his opinion without making any experiments and without having sufficient data?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I said that in some places where conditions are favourable 400 per cent may be derived and I do not know whether it is so in Travancore.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): In view of the strong feeling that exists in the House, the Director of Agriculture will be asked by Government to make experiments in tobacco cultivation. If they produce promising results and if applicants for license thereafter come forward the question of framing rules under Section 31 of the Tobacco Regulation will be considered.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Am I to understand that no rules have yet been framed?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I said so even at the very outset.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am satisfied with the assurance given by the Excise Commissioner. I beg leave to withdraw that resolution.

The resolution was by leave of the House withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. G. Raman Menon.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not wish to move the resolution.

The following resolution was not moved.

COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF RYOTS ROADS RULES.

5. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to revise the Ryots Roads Rules.

RESOLUTION *re* CONSTITUTION OF A BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR E. S. L. C. AND V. S. L. C. EXAMINATIONS.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution;

"This Council recommends to the Government that fifty per cent of the members of the Examination Board for the English School Leaving, Vernacular School Leaving and the Vernacular Higher Examinations and the Chief Examiners should consist of Headmasters of English High Schools and that eighty per cent. of the Assistant Examiners should be taken from among the assistant masters in English High Schools or Headmasters of Vernacular High Schools and that fifty per cent. of the members of the Board and Examiners chosen from High Schools be taken from private institutions."

The English School Leaving Certificate Examination is not merely a test for admission to the College course, but one for admission to the public service and for technical studies. The Vernacular School Leaving and Higher Examinations also are tests for admission to public service. Under such circumstances the Board should not be dominated by College Professors as is the case at present.

The Headmasters and Assistant Masters of High Schools should not be placed in the position of mere workers whose work is to be judged by an outside authority. They should be taken as colleagues in the work of testing progress and results of the school work. At first Headmasters were practically excluded from the Board. Later on as a result

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